



SPRING '16 Kids' Next

TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10 PICKS **TOP 10 PICKS** TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10

Salt to the Sea

By Ruta Sepetys

"In 1945, as Germany fell, refugees and Germans alike streamed towards the Polish coast to evacuate across the Baltic Sea ahead of the invading Russians. The evacuation was called Operation Hannibal. One ship, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, carried almost 10,000 passengers—more than half of them children—and was torpedoed by a Russian submarine, becoming the largest maritime disaster in history. Sepetys has created a masterful story, including historical detail that grounds readers in those terrible moments. Told in four voices, this stunning novel allows readers to not only bear witness to the loss of so many, but also celebrate the humanity that may be found even in wartime."

—Cathy Berner, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

Find out more about this book and others at WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG



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Pax

By Sara Pennypacker, Jon Klassen (illus.)

"An impending war, a lost mother, an angry father, and the relationship between a 12-year-old boy and his pet, separated by circumstances beyond their control—the themes are familiar, but Pennypacker twines them together in a beautifully written middle-grade novel that never descends into cliché. Particularly delightful are the scenes in which the domesticated fox, Pax, encounters fellow foxes in the wild and those in which the young boy converses with a new friend on the nature of violence and community. Perfect for fans of *The Giver*, *Watership Down*, and *Hatchet*."

—Kathleen Jewell, Pomegranate Books, Wilmington, NC

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Summerlost

By Ally Condie

"Condie's *Summerlost* is a delicate story of grief and finding exactly the right people when you need them most. It will break readers' hearts in all the right ways, and then stitch them back together with friendship, family, and Shakespeare. Cedar Lee is a fresh, new character in middle-grade fiction and I hope that *Summerlost* is just the beginning of her story."

—Sara Hines, Eight Cousins, Falmouth, MA

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When We Collided

By Emery Lord

"*When We Collided* is a beautiful novel detailing the relationship between two young adults as they struggle with loss, love, and mental illness. Vivi is wild and free, while Jonah is struggling to take care of his family following the death of his father. Full of vivid language and with a wonderful plot, this book is definitely a must-read!"

—Ashley Musick, Linden Tree Children's Books, Los Altos, CA

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The Night Gardener

By Terry Fan and Eric Fan

"*The Night Gardener* is one of the most beautiful picture books I have ever seen. The illustrations are exquisite, drawing readers into the story. The tale follows a young boy who discovers a new creation each morning along with the rest of his town, forever changing them. This book will inspire kids to create their own beauty in the world. *The Night Gardener* is destined to be a classic!"

—Lisa Nehs, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI



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The Serpent King

By Jeff Zentner

"Three friends growing up in a small Southern town realize how little they really know about one another until tragedy touches each of them. Dill is the son of the recently jailed Serpent King, a Pentecostal minister known for handling deadly snakes. Lydia is a fashion blogger determined to flee their small town for New York. Travis is a misfit who prefers to dwell in the fantasy worlds he reads about. Readers will ache for them as they battle their demons and fight to shed the dark histories they've inherited. *The Serpent King* is a contemporary Southern novel about loyalty, betrayal, and becoming your most honest self."

—Erin Barker, Hooray for Books!, Alexandria, VA



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The Hour of the Bees

By Lindsay Eagar

"Carolina is not happy about spending the summer before junior high with a grandfather she has never met, helping her parents move him into a home for people with dementia. But as the summer drags on, Grandpa Serge's fanciful stories of the past grab hold of Carolina and she finds herself questioning what is real and what is true, and how those two things are not always the same. A beautifully written, magical book."

—Drew Sieplinga, Wild Rumpus, Minneapolis, MN



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Rebel of the Sands

By Alwyn Hamilton

"Amani has to escape her dead-end town, where she can look forward to nothing more than an arranged marriage and a life of drudgery. However, she definitely didn't expect to be running away with a handsome fugitive on a mythical horse while being shot at by the Sultan's army. Little does Amani realize that her adventure—full of legendary monsters, vengeful djinni, and roguish, rebel princes—has only just begun. In this thrilling and magical debut, Hamilton has created a spellbinding world that offers more questions than answers, rich and compelling characters and cultures, and a fresh, exciting gunslinger heroine who doesn't take any nonsense. I can't wait for the sequel!"

—Rebecca Speas, One More Page, Arlington, VA



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The Girl in the Well Is Me

By Karen Rivers

"Kammie is trying to navigate the social hierarchy of her new school after her old life fell apart. When she finds herself stuck in a well after an outing gone wrong, she has to reexamine the circumstances and choices that landed her there. River's novel weaves together a number of important issues in an original story with some surprisingly quirky twists. It's a story that starts out simple, but grows in complexity and emotional depth, until readers find themselves falling down the well of Kammie's emotions. The only way out is to keep reading!"

—Marika McCoola, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA



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Let's Play

By Hervé Tullet

"Tullet's follow-up to *Press Here* and *Mix It Up!* is another perfect interactive adventure for young children learning colors, shapes, emotions and the limitless possibilities of their own imagination. Readers follow the surprisingly expressive dot on a journey through humor, fear, and joy, that encourages them to do the same. Tullet's design background shines here, creating a children's book that genuinely pleases both the eye and the mind."

—Julie Oliver, Odyssey Books, South Hadley, MA



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